

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

<b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b>	*	<b>CRIMINAL DOCKET NO. 11-296</b>
<b>v.</b>	*	<b>SECTION: "L"(3)</b>
<b>SHERRIE BLAIR</b>	*	<b>VIOLATIONS:   18 U.S.C. § 1341</b>
	*	<b>18 U.S.C. § 1028(a)(7)</b>
	*	<b>18 U.S.C. § 2</b>
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**FACTUAL BASIS**

If this case had gone to trial, the Government would prove the following beyond a reasonable doubt through competent evidence and tangible exhibits:

Witnesses would testify that Ochsner Medical Center is a non-profit hospital located in the city of New Orleans. The hospital offers primary care, pediatrics, heart and vascular, cancer, digestive, and multi transplant organ services.

Witnesses would also testify that Ochsner Medical Center is a covered entity under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and that HIPAA protects the individual identifiable health information collected from an individual by a health care provider.

Records and witnesses would prove that Clyde Washington was employed by Ochsner Medical Center from in or near November 2008 until on or about June 3, 2009. In his capacity as a janitor, he stole printouts containing confidential patient information such as names, social security numbers, dates of birth, phone numbers, home addresses and other personal information that was intended to be shredded.

Witnesses would testify that defendant **SHERRIE BLAIR** was unemployed and resided in Avondale, Louisiana. Witnesses would also show that **SHERRIE BLAIR** and Clyde Washington were in a relationship and have a child together.

Representatives of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. would testify that the entity is a holding company headquartered in New York, New York and provides services to customers and clients under the Chase and J.P. Morgan brands. They would also testify that Chase provides services such as online banking, ATM, credit cards, and retail checking to its customers and that J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. and the affiliated brands are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Records would prove that defendant **SHERRIE BLAIR** was a customer of Chase and previously opened a checking account ending in XXXX8004. Witnesses would testify that J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. and the affiliated Chase and J.P. Morgan engage in interstate commerce.

Representatives of Wells Fargo & Co. would testify that the entity is a diversified financial services company headquartered in San Francisco, California which provides banking, mortgage, investing, credit card, insurance, and consumer and commercial financial services. Records would show that defendant **SHERRIE BLAIR** was a customer of Wells Fargo and previously opened a Wells Fargo bank account ending in XXXX8428. Witnesses would testify that Wells Fargo & Co. engage in interstate commerce.

The government would call representatives of United Cash Loans, Cashnetusa, Payday One, and Oneclickcash to prove that they are online, cash advance loan financial service companies that allow customers to quickly receive access to funds. Testimony would show that in order to qualify, the customer is required to state that they are employed, earn approximately \$800 per month, own a bank account, are at least 18 years of age and are a United States citizen. Witnesses would testify that the financial service companies engage in interstate commerce.

Representatives of Home Depot, Best Buy, Kohl's, Zappos, and Dell would be called to testify that the entities are retail service companies that offer home improvement, electronics, and clothing products available for purchase online. Witnesses would also testify that these companies engage in interstate commerce.

Testimony and witnesses would be called to prove that beginning at a time unknown but prior to on or about March 3, 2009, and continuing until on or about December 3, 2009, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, that the defendant **SHERRIE BLAIR** knowingly devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud these various financial and retail service companies, by opening fraudulent accounts, in the names of former Ochsner Medical Center patients, in order to obtain money and property. Witnesses would testify that these various financial and retail service companies were never repaid for their losses.

A witness would testify that on or about March 3, 2009, Clyde Washington, in his capacity as janitor, stole patient information sheets from Ochsner Medical Center, in order to obtain information such as social security numbers, dates of birth, and addresses. The witnesses would testify that Clyde Washington then brought the patient information sheets to the residence of his girlfriend, **SHERRIE BLAIR**. Witnesses would testify that there were approximately 156 victim

names along with their identifying information such as social security numbers, dates of birth, and addresses that were in the possession of **SHERRIE BLAIR**.

Evidence would be admitted to prove that **SHERRIE BLAIR** knew that the identifying information belonged to actual people and then used the information to create online accounts in the names of the Ochsner patients contained on the information sheets.

Records would show that on or about March 13, 2009, **SHERRIE BLAIR** used the internet to obtain a Best Buy credit card by using the social security number, date of birth and name of Ochsner patient J.W. and then used the internet to attempt to obtain credit cards from Kohl's, Target, American Eagle, Old Navy, and Citizen's Bank in the name of that same Ochsner patient, J.W.

A witness would testify that once **SHERRIE BLAIR** opened the accounts using the internet, she was then able to either order merchandise that would be shipped to her residence via the U.S. mail for her use, or for others, or use the accounts to generate funds that she would use to purchase items for her use, or for others.

Records and witnesses would show that on or about March 18, 2009, **SHERRIE BLAIR** used the Best Buy card she obtained via the U.S. mail in Ochsner patient J.W.'s name to purchase DVD's, CD's, and other items.

Records and witnesses would show that on or about April 5, 2009, **SHERRIE BLAIR** used the internet to obtain a Kohl's credit card with a credit line of \$1200, in the name of Ochsner patient, L.M.

Records and witnesses would show that on or about April 7, 2009, **SHERRIE BLAIR** used the internet to attempt to obtain a 14k gold diamond band ring worth \$800 from Kohl's, using the credit card obtained on April 5, 2009.

Witnesses would testify that on or about April 7, 2009, **SHERRIE BLAIR** used the internet to obtain a \$300 Cashnetusa loan in the name of Ochsner patient, D.H., and that one day later on April 8, 2009, **SHERRIE BLAIR** used the internet to transfer \$300 from that Cashnetusa loan in the name of Ochsner patient, D.H., to her personal Chase bank account ending in XXXX8004.

Witnesses would prove that on April 9, 2009, **SHERRIE BLAIR** used the internet to obtain a \$300 Payday One loan in the name of Ochsner patient, L.M.

Witnesses would prove that on April 14, 2009, **SHERRIE BLAIR** used the internet to obtain a \$300 Cashnetusa loan in the name of Ochsner patient, A.R.

Witnesses would prove that on April 16, 2009, **SHERRIE BLAIR** used the internet to obtain a \$200 Cashnetusa loan in the name of Ochsner patient, L.C.

Witnesses would prove that on April 16, 2009, **SHERRIE BLAIR** used the internet to obtain a \$500 Payday One loan in the name of Ochsner patient, L.M..

Witnesses would prove that on April 17, 2009, **SHERRIE BLAIR** used the internet to transfer \$177.53 from the Payday One loan in the name of Ochsner patient, D.H., to her personal Chase bank account ending in XXXX8004.

Witnesses would also prove that on April 23, 2009, **SHERRIE BLAIR** used the internet to obtain a \$200 Cashnetusa loan in the name of Ochsner patient, K.A.

Witnesses and records would prove that on or about the date listed below, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant **SHERRIE BLAIR**, for the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice described herein, knowingly and willfully caused to be delivered to her residence by United States Mail, the following items from Best Buy using an account fraudulently opened in the name of Ochsner patient, J.W., as set forth below:

COUNT	DATE	ITEMS MAILED FROM BEST BUY TO SHERRIE BLAIR'S RESIDENCE
1	March 17, 2009	42 inch Samsung Plasma TV \$500 Best Buy gift card

Bank records and a financial analyst would prove that as a result of the mail fraud and identity theft offenses, approximately \$82,310.68, of intended loss was caused by **SHERRIE BLAIR** to the various financial and retail service companies.

The above information comes from an investigation conducted by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Secret Service, numerous records subpoenaed into a federal grand jury, and interviews conducted during the investigation.

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SHERRIE BLAIR  
Defendant

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JON MAESTRI  
Assistant United States Attorney

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ERIC HESSLER  
Attorney for Defendant Sherrie Blair

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JORDAN GINSBERG  
Assistant United States Attorney

New Orleans, Louisiana  
October 12, 2011